

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-07 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20

NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 ACDE-00 /136 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER/DFBARRETT:DS

APPROVED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S/AJ, EUR, PM, ACDA, PA, USIA

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P R 111905Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 073775

SALT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGE NIXON Demeanor

AFTER FUNERAL DRAWS FRENCH CRITICISM; WEDNESDAY PAPERS FEATURED DOMESTIC STORIES; THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED FALL OF ISRAELI CABINET; NYTIMES FRONTPAGES MOSCOW STORY, SOVIET TRADE WITH WEST INCREASED 40 PERCENT LAST YEAR. SOME EDITORIALS ON MOSCOW RELATIONS.

1A. INSIDE TUESDAY PAPERS HAD TOKYO AP REPORTING CHINA ASSERTS SOVIET STEPS UP ARMS RACE IN RIVALRY WITH US; ALSO SEN. NUNN SAYS PENTAGON CALLS FOR TOO MANY SUPPORT TROOPS IN EUROPE, SEN. KENNEDY TELLS GERMANS US TROOPS IN EUROPE WILL BE REDUCED. NYTIMES HAD GELB WASHINGTON REPORTING US SUSPENDS PRESSURE FOR EUROPEAN UNITY, GELB SAYING ADMINISTRATION CONCLUDES ONLY POSSIBLE UNITY FOR MOMENT IS UNDER FRENCH LEADERSHIP IN OPPOSITION TO US.

1B. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD VIENNA TALKS RECESS; ALSO GENEVA REUTERS REPORTING NPT SESSION SET FOR MAY 1975; PLUS

LOCAL REPORTING STATE UNIVERSITY IN EXCHANGE OF UNDERGRADUATES WITH MOSCOW INSTITUTE. WASHPOST HAD EAST BLOC REJECTS US REDUCTION PLAN, ALSO WARSAW PACT TALKS THIS MONTH; PLUS BRIEF ON HOLY LOCH.

1C. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAS VIENNA STORY, WEST SEES DELAY IN FORCE CUT; ALSO SCHLESINGER CONSIDERS TROOP CUT. NYTIMES HAS WASHINGTON AP, SEN. BUCKLEY SAID PRESIDENT SHOULDN'T GO TO MOSCOW WHILE IMPEACHMENTS CHARGES PENDING.

2. TROOP REDUCTIONS. TUESDAY WASHPOST, BONN, GOSHKO REPORTED SEN. KENNEDY AT SPEECH BEFORE GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION, SAID THAT WHILE FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO OUR ALLIANCE IS NOT IN DOUBT, AMERICA'S EUROPEAN ALLIES MUST HELP TO ENSURE THAT BURDEN OF COMMON DEFENSES DOESN'T FALL UNDULY ON ANY NATION. ORDERLY AND AGREED REDUCTION OF US FORCES DURING NEXT FEW YEARS, SAID KENNEDY, DOES NOT HAVE TO MEAN LESSENING OF US CONCERN FOR EUROPE'S DEFENSE. WHILE SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE DID NOT DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE BY OTHER US OFFICIALS, ACCORDING GOSHKO, IT WAS CERTAIN TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ESPECIALLY STRONG IMPACT IN BONN AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPE CAPITALS. BALTO SUN, BONN, OISHI REPORTED KENNEDY TOLD BONN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MANSFIELD EFFORT TO REDUCE US FORCES ABROAD WAS GETTING INCREASING SUPPORT AND NEXT TIME MANSFIELD AMENDMENT COMES UP FOR VOTE, POSSIBLY IN LATE SUMMER OR FALL, OUTCOME WILL BE VERY CLOSE. KENNEDY ADDED OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SENATE FAVORED STRONG AND CONTINUING US PRESENCE IN EUROPE,

THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT PRESENT LEVELS.

2A. TUESDAY BALTO SUN CORDDRY REPORTED SEN. NUNN IN REPORT TO SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AS RESULT OF STUDY UNDERTAKEN AT REQUEST OF SEN. STENNIS, SAID US SHOULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE COMPOSITION OF ARMY FORCES IN EUROPE BY REDUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS STOCKPILE, CUTTING BACK ON SUPPORT TROOPS AND CREATING MORE CONVENTIONAL NON-NUCLEAR COMBAT UNITS WITH MANPOWER THUS SAVED. ARGUING WESTERN ALLIANCE HAS FULLY ADEQUATE MILITARY RESOURCES TO COUNTER-BALANCE CONVENTIONAL ARMS OF WARSAW PACT, NUNN CONTENDED ALLIANCE HAS DEPENDED TOO LONG ON NUCLEAR CRUNCH WHICH IS NOT FEASIBLE NOW THAT RUSSIA HAS NUCLEAR PARITY. NUNN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAS SEEN NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO ARE DOING AS MUCH AS THEY SHOULD IN ALLIED

DEFENSE EFFORT. NUNN SAID ESTIMATES ARE THAT PRESENT

ARMY FORCE IN GERMANY COULD SAVE 29,000 TO 60,000 MEN THROUGH CHANGES HE PROPOSES. WASHPOST HAD AP AND NYTIMES FINNEY STORY.

2B. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES LATIMES HAD VIENNA AP REPORTING NATO AND WARSAW DELEGATES HELD LAST SESSION BEFORE A FOUR-WEEK RECESS, AP ADDING WARSAW SPOKESMAN STRULAK SAID THERE WAS NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE CONFLICTING VIEWS OF THE TWO ALLIANCES ON FORCE REDUCTIONS, BUT TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THAT TIME SPENT IN 32 SESSIONS WAS SPENT USEFULLY.

2C. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST VIENNA HUMAN REPORTED WARSAW SPOKESMAN SAID PACT NATIONS WOULD INSIST ON SIMULTANEOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCTION OF ALL FORCES NOW STATIONED IN CENTRAL EUROPE RATHER THAN AN INITIAL WITHDRAWAL OF SUPERPOWER TROOPS AS PROPOSED BY US, STRULAK TELLING NEWSMEN QUESTION OF WHO WILL TAKE PART IN FIRST ROUND OF REDUCTIONS IS CRUCIAL ISSUE AMONG SEVERAL REAL OBSTACLES BLOCKING AN AGREEMENT, STRULAK REPLIED TO A REPORTER IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT LEADING TO INITIAL CUTS DURING 1975. HUMAN SAYS STRULAK TOLD DELEGATES IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE WRONG TO OVERESTIMATE ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE CHRISTMAS RECESS, ADDING WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IS STILL FAR FROM SUFFICIENT; STRULAK TOLD NEWSMEN WARSAW DELEGATIONS ARE SATISFIED ATMOSPHERE HAS REMAINED BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY AND HOPE FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. STRULAK ALSO SAW NATO PROPOSAL FOR COMMON CEILING AS REAL OBSTACLE, AND NATO OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING

AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN REDUCTIONS.

2D. THURSDAY WASHPOST VIENNA HOMAN REPORTS QUARLES TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE NATO WILL CONTINUE ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO WARSAW EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SPEEDY REDUCTION OF NON-AMERICAN FORCES IN WESTERN EUROPE, QUARLES ADDING THAT WEST HAS TOUGHENED ITS BARGAINING POSITION AND SEES NO LIKELIHOOD IN NEAR FUTURE OF DISCUSSING REDUCTIONS IN WEST GERMAN AND OTHER ALLIED FORCES. HOMAN REPORTS QUARLES SAID VIEWPOINTS HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED IN SIX MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION, BUT NEITHER SIDE HAS MADE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN POSITION; TALKS ARE NOT STALLED BUT HAVE FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE AND AGREEMENT ON FIRST NEGOTIATING STEP ON DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS MAY NOT BE COMPLETED IN SESSIONS BEGINNING MAY 6 BEFORE A SUMMER RECESS.

2E. THURSDAY BALTO SUN AP REPORTS SCHLESINGER SAID YESTERDAY THAT PENTAGON IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE CUTBACK IN SUPPORT TROOPS IN EUROPE BUT NO REDUCTION WHATSOEVER IN OUR COMBAT CAPABILITIES. SCHLESINGER DID NOT INDICATE HOW LARGE A CUTBACK IN SUPPORT TROOPS MIGHT BE MADE ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF REDUCTION OF POSSIBLY 30,000 MEN. THURSDAY
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, THE PRESS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE073775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSFOSTER/DFBARRETT:DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740084-0409
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740447/aaaabqvi.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE
TAGS: PINT, PARM, US, XG, FR, CSCE, MBFR, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: SALT TALKS GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005